

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A negative-working infrared radiation-sensitive photosensitive composition comprising:

(A) an infrared absorber having a maximum absorption wavelength in a range of from 760 to 1200 nm,

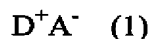
(B) an organic boron compound which has a function as a polymerization initiator when used in combination with the infrared absorber (A) to generate a free radical upon exposure to infrared radiation,

(C) an onium salt, and

(D) a compound having a polymerizable unsaturated group, and

(E) an aqueous alkali-soluble binder resin.

2. (previously presented) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 1, wherein the infrared absorber (A) is a near infrared absorbing cationic dye represented by the following formula (1):



wherein

D^+ represents a cationic dye having an absorption in a near infrared range, and

A^- represents an anion.

3. (previously presented) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 1, wherein the organic boron compound (B) is an ammonium salt of a quaternary boron anion represented by the following formula (2):

[Chemical Formula 1]



wherein

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkaryl group, an allyl group, an aralkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alicyclic group, or a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group,

at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and

R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an allyl group, an alkaryl group, an aralkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alicyclic group, or a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group.

4. (previously presented) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 1, wherein the onium salt (C) is obtained by combining an onium salt having S^+ in the molecule with an onium salt having I^+ in the molecule.

5. (previously presented) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 1, wherein the onium salt (C) has at least two onium ion atoms in a molecule.

6. (previously presented) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 5, wherein the onium ion atoms of the onium salt (C) are S^+ and I^+ .

7. (previously presented) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 1, wherein the onium salt (C) has an aromatic ring having a substituent.

8.- 9. (cancelled).

10. (currently amended) The negative-working infrared radiation-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor photosensitive composition according to claim 1 8, wherein the binder resin (E) comprises a polymer having an aromatic carboxyl group.

11. (currently amended) A negative-working infrared radiation-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a support and an infrared radiation-sensitive a photosensitive layer containing a negative-working infrared radiation-sensitive photosensitive composition formed on the support, said negative-working infrared radiation-sensitive photosensitive composition comprising

(A) an infrared absorber having a maximum absorption wavelength in a range of from 760 to 1200 nm.

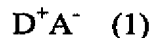
(B) an organic boron compound which has a function as a polymerization initiator when used in combination with the infrared absorber (A) to generate a free radical upon exposure to infrared radiation.

(C) an onium salt, ~~and~~

(D) a compound having a polymerizable unsaturated group,

(E) an aqueous alkali-soluble binder resin.

12. (currently amended) The negative-working infrared radiation-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor sensitive composition according to claim 11, wherein the infrared absorber (A) is a near infrared absorbing cationic dye represented by the following formula (1):



wherein

D^+ represents a cationic dye having an absorption in a near infrared range, and

A^- represents an anion.

13. (currently amended) The negative-working infrared radiation-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor photosensitive composition

according to claim 11, wherein the organic boron compound (B) is an ammonium salt of a quaternary boron anion represented by the following formula (2):

[Chemical Formula 1]



wherein

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkaryl group, an allyl group, an aralkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alicyclic group, or a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group,

at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and

R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an allyl group, an alkaryl group, an aralkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alicyclic group, or a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group.

14. (currently amended) The negative-working infrared radiation-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor ~~photosensitive composition~~ according to claim 11, wherein the onium salt (C) is obtained by combining an onium salt having S^+ in the molecule with an onium salt having I^+ in the molecule.

15. (currently amended) The negative-working infrared radiation-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor ~~photosensitive composition~~ according to claim 11, wherein the onium salt (C) has at least two onium ion atoms in a molecule.

16. (currently amended) The negative-working infrared radiation-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor ~~photosensitive composition~~

according to claim 11, wherein the onium ion atoms of the onium salt (C) are S⁺ and I⁺.

17. (currently amended) The negative-working infrared radiation-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor ~~photosensitive composition~~ according to claim 11, wherein the onium salt (C) has an aromatic ring having a substituent.

18. (cancelled).

19. (currently amended) A method of forming a lithographic printing plate comprising:

(A) imagewise exposing the infrared radiation-sensitive printing plate precursor ~~element~~ of Claim 11 to infrared radiation, to form exposed and non-exposed regions in the photosensitive layer, and

(B) developing the imaged elements to remove the non-exposed regions only using an aqueous alkali solution.

20. (new) The infrared radiation-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor of claim 11 wherein said infrared absorber is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 15% by weight, said organic boron compound is present in an amount of from 1 to 15% by weight, said onium salt comprises an iodonium salt that is present in an amount of from 2 to 30% by weight, the compound having a polymerizable unsaturated group is present in an amount of from 5 to 60 weight %, and said binder resin is present in an amount of from 20 to 70 weight %, all based on the solid infrared radiation-sensitive composition weight.

21. (new) The infrared radiation-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor of claim 11 wherein said binder resin has an alkali-soluble group that is a carboxyl, phenolic hydroxide, sulfonic acid, phosphone, active imino, or N-sulfonylamide group.